the ceiling on export of cotton yarn. Some spinning mills have also represented for removal of export ceiling. Government allows export of cotton yarn within a limited ceiling so as to ensure adequate supplies at reasonable prices to the domestic sector including decentralized powerloom and handloom weavers. In view of higher overseas demand and the record cotton production in the country, Government recently raised the ceiling fixed for export of cotton yarn during 1990 from 40 million Kgs. to 70 million Kgs. The exports of cotton have also been allowed so as to pass on the benefit of higher international prices to cotton growers.

Exemption of Foot-valves from Excise duty

3390. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE : will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have fully exempted Foot-valves, an essential component of pipe fittings of certain specifications from the purview of excise duty with a view to promitting efficiency of agricultural pumps, in the Union Budget for 1990-91;

(b) whether it is a fact that M. S. Couplings, also known as Socket, are also an essential component of pipe fittings used in agricultural pumps;

(c) if so, what are the reasons for which Sockets have not been exempted as a whole from the purview of excise duty;

(d) whether West Bengal Socket Manufactures Association, Howrah have made representations for exempting M. S. Couplings (Sockets) from the purview of excise duty; and

(e) if so, the action taken thereon ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI) : (a) Government have exempted foot-valves of certain ISI specifications, which are generally used in centrifugal pumps for agricultural purposes.

(b) to (e) M. S. Coupling have multifarious uses apart from their use in agricultural pumps. Government had received representations from the West Bengal Socket Manufacturers Association, Howrah for exempting M. S. Couplings (Sockets) from excise duty. Their request was examined but was not acceded to.

Introduction of Franking Machines in various departments of Government of India

3391. SHRI MOHD. KHALEELUR RAHMAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether, in the wake of economy in non-Plan expenditure launched by his Ministry, he has at any stage considered the expediency of introducing Franking Machines in all the Ministries and Departments, Attached and Subordinate Officials; nationalised banks, insurance corporations and in all other big public sector undertakings with a view to cut down expenditure on import of paper for printing of stamps, and other incidentals pertaining thereto; and

(b) if not, what are the reasons therefor ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI) : (a) and (b) Although Ministry of Finance have not issued any instructions in this regard, the Department of Posts have, from time to time, issued Circulars to all Ministries/Departments/State Governments stressing the advantage of using Franking Machines particularly from the angle of curbing expenditure on use of paper for printing of stamps etc.

Workers' Participation in the management of ITDC

3392. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) what are the details and outlines of the scheme as introduced by the ITDC Management in pursuance of Governments decision regarding workers' participation in the Management;

(b) the names of the ITDC units/departments/activities and the manner in which the workers' participative scheme is being implemented there till date; and

(c) the date from which the scheme is being implemented and the election/nomination of the respective bodies that took place last in each unit/division of ITDC ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI SATYA PAL MALIK) : (a)